

remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 7, 13, and 17-23 having been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claim 5 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, and the essential subject matter of Claim 5 has been incorporated into Claims 1, 7, 13, and 17-23, which are the only claims in independent form in this application. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-17, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,552,901 (Kikuchi et al.). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,126 (Otsuka). Finally, the Office Action rejected Claims 8, 18-20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,644,404 (Hashimoto et al.). Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 7, 13, and 17-23, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a data communication system. The system includes a connector for connecting a data processing terminal to the data communication system, an operation input unit for

receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator, and a data transmitter for transmitting data based on the inputted designation. The data is transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector.

A notification unit of the system notifies the data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the inputted designation, in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system and upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter.

One important feature of Claim 1 is that the data processing terminal (that is, a user on a network) is notified of the transmission result information representing the data transmission performed by the data communication system based on a manual designation by the operator. The notification is performed in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system, and is also performed upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter.

Kikuchi et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile server system. Apparently, Kikuchi et al. teaches that a remote FAX 9 transfers to a FAX server 1 registered data,

consisting of abbreviation or one-touch dialing data, stored in a parameter table 26, in a case where a user has registered or altered the abbreviation or one-touch dialing data through an operation panel of the remote FAX 9. (See, for example, column 18, lines 7-19.)

Nothing has been found in Kikuchi et al. that is believed to teach or suggest a data communication system that includes "a notification unit, adapted to notify the data processing terminal, via said connector, of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit, wherein . . . said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by said data transmitter," as recited in Claim 1. Section 16 of the Office Action concedes that Kikuchi et al. "fails to specifically disclose of notifying *upon completion* of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter." (Emphasis in the original.) Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Kikuchi et al., and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Applicant notes, however, that Claim 1 has been amended to include the essential subject matter of canceled Claim

5, which was rejected over Kikuchi et al. in view of Otsuka, as discussed above. Claim 1 was also amended so that lines 12-20, which were inadvertently truncated in the Amendment filed on November 17, 2000, are included in the claim.

Otsuka, as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile apparatus that serves as a LAN server. The Office Action cites Otsuka for teaching that "the notification unit (LAN interface unit 16) notifies information related to data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter (step 110 in Fig. 4, and step 203 in Fig. 5, column 6, line 61 through column 7, line 44).

As understood by Applicant, however, the cited portions of Otsuka merely teach that transmission information is produced and stored in a RAM 3 (step 110 in Fig. 4; column 6, lines 61-64), and an operator is notified when the RAM 3 has insufficient space to store the transmission information (step 203 in Fig. 5; column 7, lines 4-44). Nothing has been found in Otsuka that is believed to teach or suggest that transmission information related to a data transmission is notified to a data processing terminal "upon completion" of the data transmission, as claimed in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over a combination of Kikuchi et al. and Otsuka.

Hashimoto et al., as understood by Applicant, relates

to a facsimile system in which a receiving-end user issues a request for access to received facsimile data, and a response data creating unit of the system creates response data indicating that the facsimile data has been accessed at the receiving end. The response data is then sent to a sending-end user to notify him or her that the facsimile data has been accessed.

Applicants submit that Hashimoto et al. is silent regarding the feature of Claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over a combination of Kikuchi et al. and Hashimoto et al.

Independent Claims 7, 13, and 17-23 include the same feature, in which a data processing terminal is notified of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission, as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 7, 13, and 17-23 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as applied against the independent claims herein. Therefore, those claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend

from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended Four Times) A data communication system comprising:

a connector, adapted to connect a data processing terminal to said data communication system;

an operation input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator, said operation input unit being a part of said data communication system;

a data transmitter, adapted to transmit data based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include said connector; and

a notification unit, adapted to notify the data processing terminal, via said connector, of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit,

wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of said data communication system, and

wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of information related to the data

transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed
by said data transmitter.

5. (Canceled)

7. (Thrice Amended) A data communication system
comprising:

a connector, adapted to connect a network that is
connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals to said
data communication system;

an operation input unit, adapted to receive a manual
designation manually inputted by an operator, said operation
input unit being a part of said data communication system;

a designation unit, adapted to designate an ID,
representing a user on the network connected by said connector,
from the manual designation inputted by way of an operation of
said operation input unit;

a data transmitter, adapted to transmit data based on a
designation inputted by said operation input unit in accordance
with an ID designation performed by said designation unit, the
data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal
via a line that does not include said connector;

a notification unit, adapted to notify the user on the

network connected by said connector, via said connector, of information representing a data transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit and in accordance with the ID designation performed by said designation unit;

a determination unit, adapted to determine whether or not the ID is designated by said designation unit; and

a controller, adapted to control said notification unit in accordance with a determination result of said determination unit,

wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by said data transmitter.

13. (Amended Five Times) A method of controlling a data processing terminal, connected via a connector to a data communication system for performing data communication with a destination, and of controlling the data communication system, said method comprising:

an input step, in which an operator manually inputs a destination, said input step being performed at an input unit that is a part of the data communication system;

a transmission step, in which data is transmitted based on the destination inputted in said input step, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector;

a reception step, in which communication result information representing a data communication performed in accordance with a manual operation inputted by the operator in said input step is received from the data communication system;

an instruction step of instructing the data communication system to communicate with the destination; [and]

a storage step of independently storing the communication result information received in said reception step and communication result information representing a data communication based on an instruction in said instruction step; and

a notification step of notifying the data processing terminal of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed in said transmission step.

17. (Amended Five Times) A method of controlling a system that includes a data communication system for performing data communication with a destination and a data processing

terminal for controlling the data communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

at the data communication system:

designating an ID based on a manual operation performed by a user using an operation input unit of the data communication system;

performing data communication with an external data communication terminal in accordance with the ID designation; and

notifying the data processing terminal, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal, and

at the data processing terminal:

instructing the data communication system to communicate with a destination;

receiving communication result information notified by the data communication system in said notifying step; and

independently storing the communication result information related to the data communication based on an instruction in said instructing step and communication result

information received from the data communication system in said receiving step,

wherein said notification step notifies the data processing terminal of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data communication system.

18. (Amended Four Times) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method for controlling a data communication system connected to a data processing terminal via a connector, the program comprising:

program code for an input step of receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator using an operation unit that is part of the data communication system;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting data based on the designation manually inputted in said input step, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector; and

program code for a notification step of notifying the data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a data communication performed in the transmission step based on the designation manually inputted

in the input step and in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system,

wherein the notification step notifies the data processing terminal of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed in the transmission step.

19. (Amended Four Times) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method for controlling a data communication system connected to a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals via a connector, the program comprising:

program code for an input step of receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator using an operation unit that is a part of the data communication system;

program code for a designation step of designating an ID, representing a user on the network connected by the connector, from the manually inputted designation;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting data based on a designation manually inputted in the input step and in accordance with the ID designated in the designation step, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector;

program code for a notification step of notifying the user on the network connected by the connector, via the connector, of information representing a data communication performed in the transmission step based on the designation manually inputted in said input step and in accordance with the ID designated in the designation step;

program code for a determination step of determining whether an ID is designated in the designation step; and

program code for a control step of controlling the notification step in accordance with a determination result of the determination step,

wherein the notification step notifies the data processing terminal of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed in the transmission step.

20. (Amended Four Times) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing via a connector a method for controlling a data processing terminal connected to a data communication system for performing data communication with a destination, and for controlling the data communication system, the program comprising:

program code for an input step, in which an operator

manually inputs a designation, the input step being performed at an input unit that is a part of the data communication system;

program code for a transmission step, in which data is transmitted based on the designation inputted in the input step, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector;

program code for a reception step, in which is received communication result information representing a data communication performed by the data communication system based on the designation manually inputted by the operator in the input step from the data communication system;

program code for an instruction step, in which the data communication system is instructed to communicate with the destination by the data processing terminal; [and]

program code for a storage step, in which is independently stored the communication result information received in the reception step and communication result information representing the data communication based on an instruction in the instruction step; and

program code for a notification step, in which the data processing terminal is notified of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed in the transmission step.

21. (Twice Amended) A data communication system that communicates with an external device via a transmission path, and that communicates with a data processing terminal, comprising:

a signal path through which said data communication system communicates with the data processing terminal, said signal path being a path different from the transmission path;

an input section through which an operator manually inputs a designation to the data communication system;

a transmitter that, based upon the manually inputted designation, transmits data through the transmission path to the external device; and

a notifier which, because of a change in state of said data communication system, notifies the data processing terminal through said signal path of transmission result information corresponding to the data transmitted by said transmitter based upon the manually inputted designation,

wherein said notifier notifies the data processing terminal of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by said transmitter.

22. (Twice Amended) A method of controlling a data communication system that communicates with an external device

and with a data processing terminal, said method comprising the steps of:

manually inputting a designation to the data communication system;

transmitting data to the external device, via a transmission path, based upon the manually inputted designation, said transmitting step producing a transmission result; and

notifying, as a consequence of a change in state of the data communication system and via a signal path that does not correspond to the transmission path, the data processing terminal of the transmission result,

wherein said notifying step notifies the data processing terminal of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed in said transmitting step.

23. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method for controlling a data communication system that communicates with an external device and a data processing terminal, the program comprising:

code for inputting a manual designation to the data communication system;

code for transmitting data to the external device, via

a transmission path, based upon the inputted manual designation, the transmitting step producing a transmission result; and

code for notifying, as a consequence of a change in state of the data communication system and via a signal path that is not the transmission path, the data processing terminal of the transmission result,

wherein said code for notifying notifies the data processing terminal of information related to a data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by said code for transmitting.

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